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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /143 W
---------- 077827
R 080003Z JUN 74
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4379
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMCONGEN LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONGEN LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2096

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PO US
SUBJ: MEETING WITH SPECIAL GOP REP SAMPAIO

REF: LISBON 2149 NOTAL

SUMMARY: JORGE SAMPAIO, AT HIS OWN REQUEST, CALLED ON AMB BENNETT JUNE 7. SAMPAIO'S REMARKS WERE GENERAL IN NATURE, BUT PROVIDED A GOOD INSIGHT INTO CURRENT THINKING OF A PROMINENT SOCIALIST PORTUGUESE INTELLECTUAL CONCERNING PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. FOCUSING ON PORTUGUESE POLITICS, SAMPAIO STRESSED "THE DIFFICULT EQUILIBRIUM" NOW EXISTING. HE OUTLINED THE POSITION OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTIES, POINTING OUT THE IRONY OF COMMUNISTS DEFENDING LAW AND ORDER AGAINST OTHER FORCES, AMONG THEM MANY WHICH, " AS CHAMPAGNE FROM AN UNCORKED
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BOTTLE", HAD BURST ON TO THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE

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FOLLOWING THE COUP. SAMPAIO NOTED THAT BOTH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS HAVE "CADRES", BUT THAT COMMUNISTS CAN CALL IN "MASSES" AS WELL. FURTHER, WITH THREE GROUPINGS EVEN WITHIN THE MILITARY, I.E., GENERAL SPINOLA, THE MILITARY "MOVEMENT", AND THE JUNTA, THERE WERE BOUND TO BE DIFFERENCES, ESPECIALLY WITH MANY OFFICERS IN CONTROL RECEIVING ON-THE-JOB "CRASH COURSES" IN GOVERNMENT. AFTER LONG YEARS OF FIGHTING IN AFRICA, OVERWHELMING PRIORITIES FOR PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE NOW ARE PEACE OVERSEAS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT HOME. HE CAME BACK SEVERAL TIMES TO SEVERITY OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

2. SAMPAIO SAID FONMIN SOARES HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO OFFER FONMIN'S BEST WISHES TO SECRETARY KISSINGER, WHOM HE LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING AT NATO MINISTERIAL IN OTTAWA LATER THIS MONTH. SAMPAIO SAID THAT LISBON WILL SEEK FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL (SAMPAIO WAS CAREFUL, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY BENNETT, TO DESCRIBE CUNHAL AS VERY LOYAL TO MOSCOW), BUT WILL HONOR PAST COMMITMENTS AND TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIPS SUCH AS THAT EXISTING WITH US. CONCERNING AZORES, SAMPAIO OBSERVED THAT "THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME TO LOOK INTO THIS QUESTION".

3. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED TO READ NEWS OF SOARES' ABRUPT DEPARTURE FROM LUSAKA NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRELIMO, AND HOPED THIS WOULD PROVE TO BE ONLY A TEMPORARY PROBLEM. IF NOT, AND GOP WERE FORCED TO RECONSIDER MILITARY POSSIBILITIES, SEVERE DOMESTIC CRISES COULD RESULT IN PORTUGAL. MORE THAN ONCE SAMPAIO COMMENTED HE WAS SURE MILITARY OF ALL RANKS FED UP WITH "WARRING." FROM THE WAY HE DISCUSSED IT, SAMPAIO APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SURPRISED AND SHOCKED BY ALMEIDA'S CLAIM ON PORTUGUESE TV THAT 95 PERCENT OF MOZAMBIQUE'S POPULATION SUPPORTS FRELIMO.

4. AMB BENNETT REITERATED USG'S TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, ADDING THAT IN OUR VIEW THERE ARE VARIOUS FORMS FOR EXERCISE OF THIS RIGHT. SAMPAIO INDICATED PORTUGAL WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN OUR THOUGHTS CONCERNING CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, OBSERVING THAT THERE OBVIOUSLY ARE "STRATEGIC PLACES" AND "NON-STRATEGIC PLACES" IN THE WORLD.

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5. BENNETT NOTED THAT CONSISTENT WITH OUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH PORTUGAL, HE BELIEVED THAT WE, AS WELL AS WESTERN EUROPE, WOULD SHOW A SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD PORTUGUESE ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS IN THIS CRITICAL TRANSITION PERIOD.

6. SAMPAIO CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS BEEN OFFERED POSITION AS PORTUGUESE UN PERM REP, TO REPLACE AMBASSADOR PATRICIO, WHO, ACCORDING TO SAMPAIO, IS IN PROCESS OF PACKING. (PATRICIO

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TELEPHONED BENNETT LATER IN MORNING TO ANNOUNCE HIS DEPARTURE JUNE 9; HE SAID AGREMENT HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR HIM FOR "AN AGREEABLE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY".) SAMPAIO NOTED THAT VERY FEW OF PORTUGAL'S OVERSEAS DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN DISMISSED; MOST WERE SIMPLY BEING REASSIGNED. SAMPAIO DID SAY THAT THE PRO-VISIONAL GOVT HAD BEEN CRITICIZED, HOWEVER, FOR THIS. SAMPAIO ADDED THAT HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER, GIVEN HIS INTEREST IN PLAYING AN ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE, IT WOULD BE MORE ADVISABLE FOR HIM TO BE IN NEW YORK OR TO REMAIN AT HOME.

7. SAMPAIO EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR WARM RECEPTION GIVEN HIM IN NEW YORK. HE AND COLLEAGUE JOAO CRAVINHO HAVE SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS WITH OVER THIRTY DELEGATIONS. BRITISH HAVE TOLD US THAT THEIR TALK WITH CRAVINHO WENT ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO OURS WITH SAMPAIO. SAMPAIO WAS MOST IMPRESSED WITH TWO LONG DISCUSSIONS HE HAD JUNE 5, WITH ACTING ZAMBIAN PERM REP ZIMBA, AND TANZANIAN PERM REP SALIM (WHO ALSO IS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF 24 ON DECOLONIZATION). SAMPAIO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AND SURPRISE THAT NONE OF THE AFRICANS (INCLUDING ALGERIANS) WITH WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN HAD URGED PRECIPITATE INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN TERRI-TORIES. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND SYMPATHY FOR THE NEW PORTUGAL AND A CERTAIN UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF HER THE NEW ROLE AND THE BALANCE OF FORCES ON PART OF AFFICANS WITH WHOM HE HAD TALKED.

8. SAMPAIO AND CRAVINHO PLAN TO RETURN TO LISBON THIS WEEKEND.

9. COMMENT. WE FOUND SAMPAIO PERSONALLY ATTRACTIVE AND FORTHCOMING. HE SEEMS INTELLIGENT AND WELL-BALANCED ON APPROACH TO PROBLEMS. COMING MONTHS WILL TEST HOW STRONG AND TOUGH HE IS IN POLITICAL IN-FIGHTING.
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